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SYNTHESIS OF ALKYL AND ARYL PHOSPHAZENE HIGH POLYMERS. (U)

JUL 77 H R ALLCOCK, D B PATTERSON, T L EVANS N00014-75-C-0685

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Synthesis of Alkyl and Aryl Phosphazene High Polymers

by

Harry R. Allcock*, Dennis B. Patterson, and Thomas L. Evans

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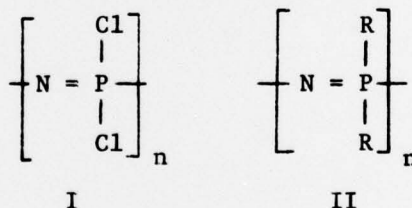
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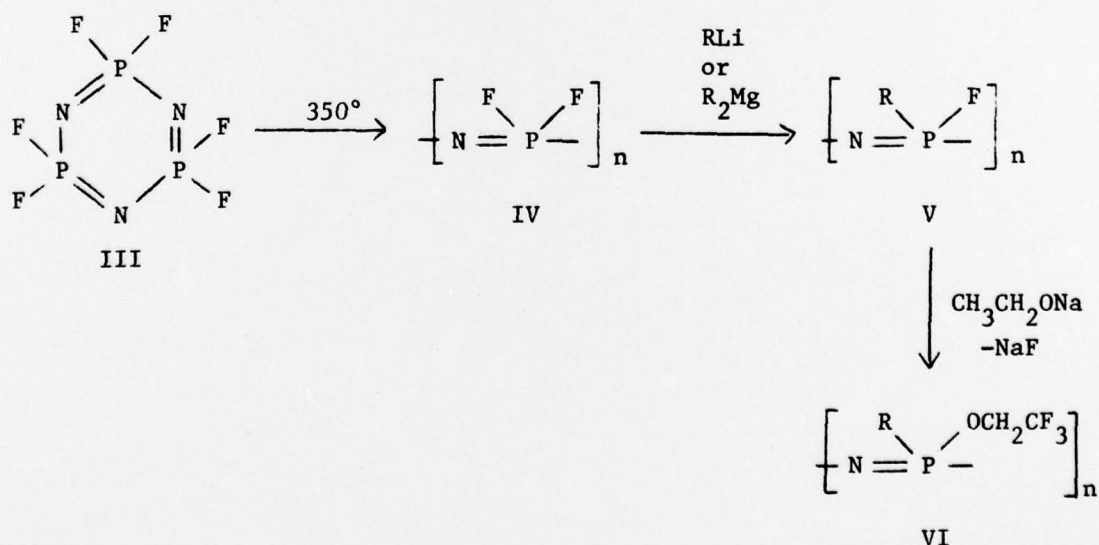
Earlier, we reported the first syntheses of stable, high molecular weight poly(organophosphazenes) of formula $[\text{NP}(\text{OR})_2]_n$, $[\text{NP}(\text{NHR}_2)]_n$, and $[\text{NP}(\text{NR}_2)_2]_n$ ¹⁻³ by the interaction of poly(dichlorophosphazene) (I) with alkoxides, aryloxides, or amines. Since that time more than 70 different macromolecules based on these structures have been prepared in different laboratories.⁴ These species now comprise a new class of high polymers with unusual fundamental and technological properties. However, all these polymers possess organic side groups bonded to phosphorus through oxygen or nitrogen and, for this reason, reaction pathways exist that permit depolymerization or decomposition at temperatures above 200°. It was anticipated that a new range of phosphazene polymers, perhaps with higher thermal stabilities and unique physical properties, might be accessible if alkyl or aryl groups could be bonded directly to phosphorus through carbon-phosphorus bonds (II).



A few earlier attempts had been made to achieve this end. Polymer I had been allowed to react with Grignard or organolithium reagents,^{5,6} but the elemental compositions and properties of these products were incompatible with the expected structures. In fact, earlier work in our laboratory showed that such reagents degrade the phosphazene skeleton of I in preference to replacement of halogen. Similar ring cleavage reactions have been reported when the cyclic $(\text{NPCl}_2)_3$ or 4

interact with Grignard or organolithium reagents.^{7,8} However, small molecule fluorocyclophosphazenes, such as $(\text{NPF}_2)_3$ or $4^{9,10}$ are less susceptible to skeletal cleavage under these conditions, and it was of interest to examine the reactions of high polymeric $(\text{NPF}_2)_n$ with organometallic reagents.

We report here that high molecular weight poly(difluorophosphazene) (IV) is a suitable substrate for reaction with some organometallic reagents. The poly(difluorophosphazene) prepared by the published techniques^{11,12} is a cross-linked material that is insoluble in all solvents and cannot be used for substitution reactions. We have found that careful, controlled polymerization of highly purified molten $(\text{NPF}_2)_3$ (III) at 350° in a high pressure autoclave system for 16-24 hr yielded an elastomeric form of IV that was soluble in organic media. Perfluorodecalin or perfluoro-2-butyltetrahydrofuran are suitable solvents, although the addition of 10 vol % of diethyl ether was sometimes necessary to effect complete solution of the polymer. Crosslinking and insolubilization of IV normally occur after about 50% of the trimer has been polymerized.



The soluble poly(difluorophosphazene) reacted cleanly with aryllithium reagents or with dialkylmagnesium compounds to yield partly substituted, soluble, high molecular weight poly(aryl- or alkylphosphazenes) (V). The remaining fluorine in V was removed by reaction with nucleophiles, such as $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{ONa}$ to yield hydrolytically stable, mixed substituent polymers such as VI. Attempts to achieve total replacement of fluorine in IV led to a marked shortening of the chains, although up to 80-90% of the fluorine could be replaced by alkyl or aryl without the polymer incurring a serious decline in molecular weight. The products of these reactions are flexible or elastomeric materials with unusual combinations of physical properties. The following are examples of typical reactions.

Phenyllithium prepared from bromobenzene (26.2 g, 0.17 mol) and excess lithium in diethyl ether (200 ml) was added to a solution of IV (4.6 g, 0.055 mol) in perfluorobutyltetrahydrofuran (175 ml) and diethyl ether (12 ml) as a heterophase suspension in tetrahydrofuran (THF) (1000 ml). After 6 min reaction at 21° , the mixture was treated with a solution prepared from trifluoroethanol (18 ml, 0.25 mol) and sodium (2.1 g, 0.11 mol) in THF (150 ml). After 18 hr reaction at 61° , the polymer was isolated by precipitation in dilute aqueous hydrochloric acid, followed by sequential precipitation from THF into water, acetone, and hexane (yield 41%). The white, flexible, film-forming polymer had a glass transition temperature (T_g) of 60° . Infrared and nmr spectra were compatible with structure VI. ^{31}P nmr spectra showed a peak at +2.16 ppm with a shoulder at +7.69 ppm.¹³ Gel permeation chromatography (GPC)¹⁴ suggested a molecular weight near 1.2×10^6 . Elemental analysis¹⁵ indicated that 62% of the side groups were phenyl and 38% were $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{O}$. Comparative tests indicated that this polymer showed a greater resistance to molecular weight decline at 300° than did $[\text{NP}(\text{OCH}_2\text{CF}_3)_2]_n$. Prolonged reaction of IV with phenyllithium (for

example, for 12 hr at 20°) raised the phenyl side group content to 84%¹⁶, while the molecular weight declined to $\approx 80,000$. More vigorous reaction conditions yielded fully substituted¹⁷ but lower molecular weight materials ($\bar{M}_n \approx 2,500$)

Similar techniques were employed for the interaction of diethylmagnesium or dibutylmagnesium in THF or glyme with solutions of IV in perfluorobutyltetrahydrofuran. After 2 days reaction with Et_2Mg at 25°, followed by treatment with $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{ONa}/\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ at 60° for 24 hr, a highly elastomeric polymer was isolated (yield 20%). It was soluble in THF and chloroform. The \bar{M}_n molecular weight by GPC analysis¹⁴ was 6×10^5 , and microanalysis indicated that 90% of the side groups were ethyl and 10% were $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{O}$.¹⁸ ^{31}P nmr analysis showed one peak at -15.99 ppm.¹³ The Tg value was -50°.

It is clear that this synthetic method via polymer IV provides a valuable route to the synthesis of a new class of potentially useful macromolecules.

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13. Relative to aqueous 85% H_3PO_4 . The ^{31}P spectrum for $[\text{NP}(\text{OCH}_2\text{CF}_3)_2]_n$ shows a peak at +8.2 ppm.
14. The \bar{M}_n molecular weights were estimated by gel permeation chromatography comparison with polystyrene standards with the use of 10^6 Styragel columns. The solvent was THF.
15. Anal. Calcd. for $[\text{NP}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4)_{1.24}(\text{OCH}_2\text{CF}_3)_{0.76}]_n$: C, 49.88; H, 3.58; N, 6.49; P, 14.35; F, 20.07. Found: C, 50.20; H, 3.55; N, 6.43; P, 14.30; F, 19.60.

16. Anal. Calcd. for $[\text{NP}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4)_{1.68}(\text{F})_{0.32}]_n$: C, 67.00; H, 4.65; N, 7.76; P, 17.20; F, 3.37. Found: C, 66.87; H, 4.70; N, 7.67; P, 17.02; F, 3.40.
17. Anal. Calcd. for $[\text{NP}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_2]_n$: C, 72.36; H, 5.85; N, 7.03; P, 15.59. Found: C, 71.27; H, 5.85; N, 6.31; P, 16.33.
18. Anal. Calcd. for $[\text{NP}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3)_{1.80}(\text{OCH}_2\text{CF}_3)_{0.20}]_n$: C, 41.00; H, 8.03; N, 11.97; P, 26.49; F, 9.74. Found: C, 41.80; H, 7.89; N, 11.79; P, 26.35; F, 9.78.

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